

PASS TAX BLAME FROM CONGRESS TO HARDING AND BACK

July 1 Here and Business
Doesn't Know Yet What It
Must Pay for Fiscal Year.

NOBODY USES THE WHIP.

Predictions of Republicans in
Last Campaign Turn Out
Valueless.

By David Lawrence.
(Special Correspondent of The Evening World).

WASHINGTON, July 1 (Copyright, 1921).—The first of July is here and Congress has failed to live up to the predictions made during the last campaign that the business men of the country would know how much taxes they would have to pay for the fiscal year which in so many business concerns begins to-day.

Similarly the first of July marks the beginning of the Government's fiscal year and is always regarded as a turning point. Therefore it is not surprising to find discussion to-day of the progress the new Administration has made to date and to note certain murmurings inside and outside of Congress and a tendency to pass the blame from the executive end of the avenue to Congress and back again.

The truth is that any one who believed the Republicans would be able to get a tax bill out of the way by July first miscalculated the speed of Congress. The Republican members are so big that it is somewhat unsteady and the old-fashioned method of having two Houses guided by leaders in whom the rank and file would have confidence has given way to the groups and factions which have their own leaders.

President Harding has never abated his desire for a prompt passage of a tax bill, but it is one thing to hope for speed from Congress and quite another thing to get it, especially at the start of an Administration, when Senators and Representatives spend so much of their time either getting new jobs for their friends or saving their old friends from losing said jobs.

Congress has literally slid along

from day to day without programme and without aim. Nobody sits over Congress and cracks the whip. The same "leisurely" methods that have prevailed for years are still in vogue, and so many measures are proposed by individual members that the main things, like the tax and tariff bills, are not pushed forward with the combined energy of the members.

The real trouble is that pride of party is disappearing. Time was when a leader might rally the elements in the Republican Party by calling upon its members to uphold the reputation of the G. O. P. for efficiency and smooth dispatch of public business. Only the Democrats used to be held up to scorn as unable to handle legislation efficiently. So many groups have arisen in the Senate and House that instead of party there is in its place a pride of individual opinion. There is little regard for party harmony.

A Republican Congress, for instance, has just embarrassed a Republican President and Secretary of War by ordering that the standing army be cut down to 150,000 men by October instead of next May, as originally planned. As a consequence, the Government is placed in the position of having to discharge men who enlisted for a year. The Government in other words, is obliged to break its contract.

The Secretary of War thinks it would be a stain on the honor of the Government to do so, yet he is required by law to bring the army down to the size for which money was ap-

propriated. He can't keep faith with the enlisted men without violating a statute. If a trooper deserts and breaks his contract with the Government, he is punished, but the army men now wonder how the Government can justify a breaking of its own contract.

President Harding has appealed to Congress to straighten out the matter by new legislation. He originally asked that Congress prevent the present situation from arising, but Congress paid no attention to the request. It is only one of a number of instances of lack of team work and of a disposition in Congress to go its own way regardless of the Republican Executive.

Mr. Harding has been told that sooner or later this situation will meet against him, and that the errors of omission and commission of an inefficient Congress will hurt him as much as any individual member. He is being urged to take a hand and drive Congress, largely because of a fear that the entire Republican Administration will be judged by what Congress does or fails to do.

Already there is talk of a recess in Congress. The tariff bill has not been introduced in the House, which will join it through quickly, refusing to permit amendments, which is only another way of inviting the Senate to rewrite the measure.

While it is true that a powerful element in the Republican party wanted the tariff revised the truth is a bigger element wanted the taxes reduced. The Republicans have yielded to the agricultural group and other factions which have managed to threaten them most and have sidetracked the revenue bill. There is beginning to be recognition of the fact that a mistake was made in the first instance in refusing to put tax revision ahead of the tariff. In fact, President Harding's failure to decide that dispute early in his Administration, leaving it to the Congressional leaders to work

out, has simply resulted in nothing being accomplished on tax matters at all.

The prospect now is that the country will have to pay the same taxes it paid last year and will be lucky to escape without an increase. The excess profits tax has been automatically repealed by the business depression and there is no certainty as yet how much the individual income tax rates will have to be advanced to make up for those losses.

The striking thing about the situation is not only the failure of Congress to enact a tax bill but there is hardly anybody in the Government, either in the Treasury Department or elsewhere, who can give any inkling of what next year's taxes will be like.

Senate Railroad Inquiry Suspended

WASHINGTON, July 1.—Senate investigation of the railroad situation was suspended today by electronic Commerce of the Interstate Commerce Commission until the middle of latter part of August. This was taken to mean that there would be no railroad report during the present extra session of Congress.

NAVY FORGER INDICTED.

"Champion Jay-Rider" Now Believed to Be on Pacific Liner.

The "champion jay-rider of the world," according to Assistant United States Attorney James S. Johnson, is Edward J. Davis, charged in an indictment returned before Judge Learned Hand in the United States District Court to-day with forgery and presenting forged government transportation requests.

Judge Hand issued a bench warrant for Davis' arrest. According to Mr. Johnson, Davis is believed to be aboard a Pacific steamer and word has been sent to a Japanese port to arrest him when he lands.

For over a year we have been trying to find Davis, who is accused of breaking into navy recruiting stations in Montana, Delaware, New York, South Carolina and Texas, securing only transportation requests, forging the name of an officer and then signing his own name, said Mr. Johnson. "The Government has made good every transportation request that this jay rider has used and it has cost the United States nearly \$1000."

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BUT WILL BE CLOSED THEREAFTER EVERY
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AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES

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Silk and lisle hosiery, all colors,
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3142 pairs in all leathers, single- or twin-button strap pumps. All sizes and styles.

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